

# **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX**

## **City of Sonoma**

### **Introduction**

The City of Sonoma is small city in Sonoma County, California. The City has a population of about 9,460 people, based on the most recent Department of Finance estimates<sup>1</sup>. The 2004-2005 general fund budget is about \$8,600,000. The City also operates water, cemetery and emergency medical service enterprises (with a combined 2004-2005 budget of \$8,223,000) and has a redevelopment agency with a budget of \$10,677,000 including capital and affordable housing components. The City employs 62 full time positions augmented by about 35 part-time firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians. The police department is operated under contract with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department.

### **The Planning Process**

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of Sonoma. The City has a Safety and Environment Element as part of its 1995 General Plan which is currently being updated. The Safety and Environment Element includes discussions of flooding, geologic hazards, urban and wildland fires, and hazardous materials. In addition, the City routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the City were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" workshop in June 2004 and the October 2004 general assembly program – *Taming Natural Disasters*. In addition, the City has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the City provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff met to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. Staff involved in this meetings included the Planning and Community Services Administrator, Development Services Administrator (Building Official), Assistant City Manager, Public Works Administrator, Fire Chief and City Manager. At the meeting, the general priorities and appropriate City departments were identified. The City provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the DRAFT mitigation strategies selected by City staff at the City Council meeting on April 6, 2005. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was adopted by the City Council on June 1, 2005. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to this Annex.

---

<sup>1</sup> For complete Census information on this city, see <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>.

## Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). The City may be impacted by all of these hazards except for surface rupture (faulting) and tsunami inundation. No active faults pass through the City. Tsunamis do not impact the City due to its distance from open ocean.

While the City has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the City, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in Sonoma County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 1,690 acres in the City,

- ◆ 19 acres are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 245 acres are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 36 acres are subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 64 acres are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 113 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 0 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 61 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the City), but 1,107 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas; and
- ◆ all 1,690 acres are subject to drought.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 40 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ 0 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain, while 7 additional miles are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ one mile of roadway is in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ one mile of road is in an area of existing landslides;
- ◆ 4 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 0 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ while no miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 24 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas; and
- ◆ drought is not an issue for transportation.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ no critical health care facilities or city-owned facilities are in the 100-year flood plain, one school is in the 100-year flood plain and one health care facility is in another flood-prone area;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities or schools, are in an area subject to dam inundation, 2 city-owned facilities are within an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities or schools and 10 city-owned facilities are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities, schools or city-owned facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities, schools or city-owned facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 3 health care facilities, 4 schools and 28 city-owned critical facilities are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

In spite of the areas of the City located in flood-prone areas, there are 6 repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

While none of the City has been mapped by the California Geological Survey for earthquake-induced landslides or liquefaction, the hazards shown on these maps, when completed, are likely to be consistent with the USGS liquefaction map and existing landslide map.

Drought, though a potential problem in the City, is not fully assessed. The City will be working with ABAG and water supply agencies on this issue.

The City plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the City. As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquake shaking, liquefaction, wildfires and drought are more important than the other hazards. The City is particularly concerned with wildfires, given the area and the number of facilities located in the wildland-urban interface area.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of Sonoma staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the City Fire Chief, Building Official, Public Works Administrator, Planning and Community Services Administrator, Assistant City Manager and City Manager on March 10, 2005. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were provided to the City Council on April 6, 2005. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. The priorities were adopted on June 1, 2005. Where applicable, the final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become implementation measures in the City's General Plan Safety and Environment Element.

In addition, the City examined the hazard exposure information to City-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. The City is in the process of planning for the seismic upgrade of its police station, which includes the City's emergency operations center, from 1975 standards to the most recent structural standards for essential buildings.

## **The Plan Update and Maintenance Process**

The City of Sonoma is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. Triggers that may be used to signal a need for an update will include major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, etc. This Annex will be a discussion item by city department heads once each year in April. At that meeting, the Annex will be evaluated in light of technological and political changes or other significant events during the past year. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

In addition, the public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and, as appropriate, during the monitoring and evaluation process. All public comments will be reviewed and evaluated. Publicly initiated changes will be integrated into the plan updates as necessary.

The City Manager will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.